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FRANK L. SANDERS,  
Stationer and Bookbinder,  
1 Depot Street,  
CONCORD, N. H.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,  
AND  
Superintending School Committee,  
OF THE TOWN OF  
SOUTH NEWMARKET  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
FEBRUARY 29, 1884.

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EXETER, N. H. :  
WILLIAM B. MORRILL, PRINTER.  
News-Letter Press.  
1884.



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# TOWN OFFICERS.

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MODERATOR,

H. JENNESS PAUL.

TOWN CLERK,

ALBERT H. VARNEY.

SELECTMEN,

DANIEL G. NEAL,  
DANIEL C. WIGGIN,  
SAMUEL P. BADGER.

TREASURER,

GEORGE O. PAUL.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

JAMES H. FITTS.

COLLECTOR OF TAXES,

CHARLES S. CLARK.

AUDITOR,

SAMUEL E. WILLIAMS.

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OFFICERS ELECTED AN BIENNIAL TOWN MEETING, NOVEMBER, 1882.

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SUPERVISORS,

H. JENNESS PAUL,  
DANIEL W. LYNCH,  
CHARLES S. CLARK.

REPRESENTATIVE TO GENERAL COURT,

DANIEL C. LANGLANDS.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

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Geo. O. Paul, Treasurer, in account with the town of South  
1883.                      Newmarket.    Dr.

To amount in hands of Treasurer, Feb. 28, 1883,        \$94 80

### AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM THE STATE.

Railroad tax,	\$378 43	
Savings bank tax,	450 26	
Literary fund,	85 17	
	—————	\$913 86
sale of lumber left of bridge,	26 00	
amount of C. H. Sanborn's note,	400 00	
amount from County of Rockingham,	185 31	
amount from school district No. 1, half insurance on town hall building,	21 88	
amount from town of Strat- ham, for the care of G. O. Wiggin,	105 40	
amount of income of town hall,	40 00	
amount of tax list committed to C. S. Clarke for collec- tion, including dog tax, 1883,	4,592 27	
amount of balance of C. S. Clarke's list of 1882,	7 15	
	—————	\$6,386 67
Less abatements, 1882, \$6 60		
“                      1883, 54 50		
Discounts,	168 93	
	—————	
		230 03
		—————\$6,156 64

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

1883.

CR.

Paid sundry orders of Selectmen as follows :

March 5,	Paid J. E. Spead, printing town accounts,	\$17 00
	*A. Field, goods delivered to C.	
	Cloudman,	4 85
	*J. T. Smart, goods delivered to	
	C. Cloudman,	3 48
10,	G. W. Pollard, bounty on crows,	20
	J. N. Clarke, J. B. Martin, note	
	and interest,	163 32
	County of Rockingham, F.	
	French's board,	218 25
May 11,	*Kate Fittsgerald, nursing Mrs.	
	Cloudman,	5 75
	*Mrs. S. Gray, nursing Mrs.	
	Cloudman,	10 00
June 6,	Committee on decoration,	24 70
	Thompson & Batchelder, town	
	officers' and Collector's book,	3 65
11,	S. S. Manning, building wall	
	against land of J. W. Kuse,	30 00
19,	*H. T. Taplin, care of Maggie	
	Williams,	7 00
26,	A. W. Richards, School District	
	No. 2,	100 00
29,	W. H. Conner, School District	
	No. 1,	400 00
July 12,	J. H. Wilkinson, insurance on	
	hearse house,	3 75
	*Adaline Neal,	33 00
	F. P. Neal, Highway District	
	No. 2,	80 00
20,	Adaline Neal, board of Eben	
	Wilson,	9 00



July 20,	Paid	*A. H. Varney, medical attendance and medicine for Mrs. Cloudman and Maggie Williams,	33 00
26,		S. Horne, especial police service,	2 00
Aug. 1,		County tax,	1,089 26
14,		C. E. Smith, Highway District No. 3,	35 06
Oct. 11,		Adaline Neal, board of Eben Wilson,	13 00
13,		C. E. Smith, Highway District No. 3,	50 00
Nov. 10,		State tax,	864 00
23,		W. H. Conner, School District No. 1,	500 00
		Thompson & Batchelder, order book,	75
24,		A. W. Richards, School District No. 2,	120 00
29,		C. E. Smith, Highway District No. 3,	34 25
Dec. 27,		J. A. Spead, printing and delivering orders of notices of new street,	17 10
1884.			
Jan. 2,		W. H. Conner, Highway District No. 1,	300 00
7,		J. H. Wilkinson, insurance on town hall building,	43 75
		*Annie E. Willes, board of Eben Wilson,	13 00
		*Annie E. Willes, on account of Adaline Neal,	32 00
		T. B. Robinson, surveying new street,	4 00

Jan. 7,	Paid A. G. Whitcomb, settees and chairs for town hall, and freight on same,	39 22
12,	*L. C. Reynolds, digging grave, A. Neal,	2 00
	*C. N. Colbath, coffin and robe,	18 00
23,	A. H. Varney, medicine and attendance, for Adaline Neal and G. O. Wiggin,	24 00
28,	*E. A. Hanson, care of Adaline Neal,	10 00
Feb. 5,	F. M. Pillsbury, care of G. O. Wiggin, \$33 50	
	F. M. Pillsbury, police service,	2 00
		<hr/>
		35 50
11,	H. Clough, care and expense G. O. Wiggin case,	35 60
	Geo. P. Hanson, G. O. Wiggin case,	7 00
23,	C. H. Sanborn, interest on note,	15 00
25,	W. C. Conner, school district No. 1,	421 17
	D. G. Neal, witness fees in Shaw case,	28 77
	Wm. Neal, G. O. Wiggin case,	5 40
	E. C. Eastman, record books,	12 05
	W. F. Littlefield, watering trough,	3 00
	C. E. Smith, highway district No. 3,	10 90
26,	Emily J. Neal, taxes paid back on bank for the years 1881, '82 and '83, stock not taxable here,	23 00
	F. P. Neal, highway district No. 2,	25 00

Feb. 26, Paid	A. H. Varney, services as Town Clerk,	46 42
	C. S. Clarke, tax bills,	1 75
	W. H. Conner, highway district No. 1,	118 02
	W. G. Perry, recording births and deaths,	1 25
	*J. E. Elkins, medical attendance on Adaline Neal,	12 00
	J. W. Smart, lumber for new road,	6 00
	G. P. Hanson, hearse for Mrs. Neal and carting settees,	4 00
28,	C. S. Clarke, collecting taxes,	65 53
	S. P. BADGER, SELECTMAN.	

Feb. 28, Paid	distributing inventory blanks,	\$3 00
	Time and expense, Shaw case,	1 50
	Telephones, Shaw case,	50
	G. O. Wiggin case,	3 00
	Receiving inventories,	2 00
	Other expenses as Selectman,	15 00
		<hr/>
		\$25 00

## D. C. WIGGIN, SELECTMAN.

Feb. 28, Paid	stationery,	15
	Helping poor person,	35
	Time to Exeter, Shaw case,	1 50
	Time to Exeter, toll bridge case,	1 50
	*Railroad tickets for Maggie Williams,	1 85
	Telephones,	60



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Feb. 28, Paid	Time to Portsmouth to see	
	Commissioner,	2 00
	Railroad tickets for Jones	
	children,	3 70
	To Exeter, Shaw case,	1 50
	To Portsmouth, “	3 00
	Time and expense, Shaw	
	case,	1 50
	One set coffin stools,	4 75
	One table for town hall,	2 50
	Stamps,	06
	*Goods furnished Mrs.	
	Conner Neal,	1 10
	Time and expense to Exe-	
	ter to settle with county,	2 50
	Express on record books,	50
	Time to Exeter to settle	
	Marston & Eastman's	
	bill,	75
	Time and expense laying	
	out new street,	11 75
	Stamps and stationery,	25
	All other services as Se-	
	lectman,	15 00

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\$56 81

## DANIEL G. NEAL, SELECTMEN.

1884.

Feb. 28, Paid	Enroling militia,	\$2 00
	Receiving inventories,	2 00
	Summoning witnesses, Shaw	
	case,	1 50
	Summoning witnesses, Shaw	
	case,	2 50
	To Portsmouth, Shaw case,	3 00
	“ “ “	3 00
	“ “ “	4 00

Feb. 28, Paid attending hearing, new street,	1 50	
To Newmarket, for Surveyor, new street,	1 50	
All other services as Selectmen,	15 00	
	<hr/>	\$36 00

GEO. O. PAUL, TREASURER.

Feb. 28, Paid To Newmarket to pay County tax,	\$1 50	
Stationery,	50	
Services as Treasurer,	30 00	
	<hr/>	\$32 00

Feb. 28, Paid H. Clough, police services,	8 00	
A. Austin, G. O. Wiggin case,	5 00	
A. Austin, police services,	6 00	
A. Austin, wood, lights and glass, and care of town hall,	21 00	
Jos. Smith, care of Jones' children,	102 08	
Mrs. A. E. Wiggin, for boarding Geo. O. Wiggin,	15 00	
J. C. Giddings, in case of Geo. O. Wiggin,	5 00	
29, J. H. Fitts, services as School Committee,	25 00	
Marston & Eastman, B. & M. railroad and Shaw cases,	300 00	
S. E. Williams, auditing town accounts,	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$5,875 53
Balance in hands of Treasurer,		281 11
		<hr/>
		\$6,156 64

## ABATEMENTS ON LIST 1883.

Dan'l. Broderick, poll,	\$1 25
Jas. Broderick, “	1 25
J. F. Brown, “	1 25
Mr. Busnrhan “	1 25
E. Cassidy, dog,	1 00
John Casey, poll,	1 25
John Donerlson, poll,	1 25
Clifford S. Dixon, horse and poll,	2 00
John Fagan, poll,	1 25
James Field, “	1 25
Jacob Hersey, dog,	1 00
Chas. F. Ham, “	1 00
Chas. W. Howard, poll,	1 25
Thomas Hogan, dog,	3 00
W. H. Hersey, poll,	1 25
Geo. P. Kimball, poll,	1 25
Ed. Kelley, “	1 25
Chas. Leavitt, dog,	1 00
J. H. Lambert, poll,	1 25
Wm. Lane, “	1 25
Alvin Miles, dog,	1 00
Phalen Murphy, poll,	1 25
Val. Murphy, “	1 25
Fred. Murphy, “	1 25
John Murphy, dog,	2 00
Luke Parnell, poll,	1 25
W. Sowards, “	1 25
Chas. Senter, “	1 25
Fred. Scadding, poll,	1 25
S. P. Teeri, “	1 25
Herbert L. Wiggin, poll,	1 25
Sam'l Merrill, real estate,	1 25
Concord railroad, wood,	8 75
J. McGlency, poll,	1 25
S. A. Wormsted, poll,	1 25
Col. Upton, poll,	1 25

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 \$54 50



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VALUATION OF PROPERTY IN TOWN, APRIL 1,  
1883.

Real Estate, Personal Property and Polls,       \$362,388 00  
Rate per \$1000, \$12.50.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Notes due C. H. Sanborn,	\$700 00
Less cash in hands of Treasurer March 1st, 1884,	281 11
	<hr/>
Net amt. town's indebtedness, March 1, 1884,	\$418 89

\*Paid by the county.

DANIEL G. NEAL,	}       Selectmen of South Newmarket.
SAMUEL P. BADGER,	
DANIEL C. WIGGIN,	

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AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he has examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer, and finds them correctly cast and payments properly vouched.

S. E. WILLIAMS, Auditor.

So. Newmarket, Feb. 29, 1884.

## SCHOOL REPORT.

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State law and established usage require an annual School Report. The statute enjoins a statement in detail of the condition of the several schools in town.

Our school money consists of \$756.00 raised by state law, an additional appropriation of \$700.00, and \$85.17 income from the Literary Fund. Total revenue \$1,541.17. The largest sum appropriated to any district is \$1,321.17; and the smallest sum is \$220.00. This is more than the school money of the previous year by \$208.78, and the schools have been lengthened thereby. The average length of the schools in town, has been 32 1-4 weeks; last year, 28 3-4 weeks. The length of the longest school has been 34 weeks; last year 31 weeks. The length of the shortest school, has been 28 weeks; last year 22 weeks. Two male teachers have taught 62 weeks at the average wages of \$50.-00 per month, including board. Three female teachers have taught 67 weeks at an average cost of \$35.17 per month. The expense for each enrolled scholar has been \$8.38. The ratio per cent. of the school tax upon the invoiced valuation of the town is .004.

The Selectmen return, 164 children in town between the ages of five and fifteen years—91 boys and 73 girls. The whole number of different scholars enrolled upon our school register, four years of age and upward, attending school not less than two weeks, is 174—boys 89, girls 85. Number of scholars under six years of age 16; over sixteen 3; between six and sixteen 155. The largest number of scholars in any school is 75, and the smallest number is 20. The average daily attendance has been 116, pupils not absent or tardy during the year 2; during one or more terms 49. We have several pupils who are attending schools in other places. Two children between five and fifteen years of age are re-

ported as not attending any school. The number of different scholars in town, studying reading is 174 ; spelling 174 ; penmanship 140 ; arithmetic 140 ; geography 90 ; grammar 60 ; history 61 ; composition 32 ; physiology 6 ; book keeping 8 ; algebra 9 ; geometry 2 ; astronomy 5. Perhaps all in the Intermediate and Primary schools may be said to attend to singing.

The use of the same text-book by many successive classes, at length becomes wearisome, and fails to afford proper stimulus to studious thought. The monotony should be relieved. The readers, which have done us good service so long, were exchanged, April 18, 1883, for Lippincott's Popular Series of Readers. No little advantage was hoped for, from the reading of fresh pieces, not already in great part, committed to memory. The good wrought by the change is already distinctly manifest. The use of Manson's economic spelling blanks was commenced April 23, 1883. The treatise on book-keeping by A. B. Meservey was adopted Dec. 30, 1883, as supplying the need of some of our more advanced pupils. An amendment to the school-laws, which takes effect March 1, 1884, provides that "teachers shall be examined in physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks and narcotics upon the human system." Probably our present excellent text-book on physiology will meet sufficiently well the requirement of this amendment.

May-day was properly celebrated by all the schools in town. Through the kindness of the Prudential Committee the teachers and scholars were taken to the fields and woods to enjoy a pleasant holiday. Beyond treasures in hand of plant, mineral and animal, there were gathered richer treasures in body and mind to both old and young. Such occasions, in which riper years participate in the frolicsome gaieties of childhood might well be repeated. All would be gainers thereby.

In the ordering of an all-wise providence we have sadly



learned the lesson of the mortality of even the young. On Sept. 8, 1883, a few days previous to her thirteenth birthday, Mabel A. Sanborn fell asleep in the embrace of death. She loved her school, and had greatly endeared herself to her school-mates as well as to her relatives.

### DISTRICT NO. 1.

Prudential Committee, WILLIAM H. CONNER.

Three schools. Money appropriated to the district \$1,321.17. Length of schools, grammar grade, 34 weeks; intermediate grade, 34 weeks; primary grade, 33 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 146. Boys 73, girls 73. Pupils under six years of age 15; over sixteen 2; between six and sixteen 129. Average daily attendance 112. Percentage of daily attendance 90.

The year brought with it an entire change in the prudential committee and teachers of the district. We are not sure that we take kindly to such sweeping measures. They have their perils as well as their advantages. President Lincoln quaintly pointed out these risks in his ludicrous story of swapping horses while crossing the stream. We certainly do not like to part with old and tried friends. Our noble system of common schools is not an institution to be experimented upon. The alteration, however, occasioned a little friction, as could well be expected. Our fears proved groundless. The evils certainly have been fewer than was expected, while, perhaps, the advantages have equalled the hopes of the most sanguine. New persons and changed methods have their use. Changes not absolutely for the better may yet be in some features relatively better. The several teachers presented satisfactory testimonials of scholarship and moral character, and received certificates of qualification as the law requires. Any report of the district were incomplete if it passed over in silence the mutual good will that has sprung up between committee, parents, teachers and scholars. These kindly elements of success richly merit the praise of all friends of education.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Teacher, GEORGE W. LIBBEY.

Wages per month, \$60.00. Number of pupils first term, 44; average, 42; second term, 36; average, 35; third term, 34; average, 33. Percentage of daily attendance, first term, 94; second term, 94; third term, 95. Visits by Superintendent, 9; by prudential committee, 3; by parents and friends including the closing examinations, first term, 33; second term, 44; third term, 52. Pupils present every half day without being tardy, first term, Ralph E. Conner, G. Fred Littlefield, Maud L. Pillsbury, John W. Coe, Edith B. Paul, Nellie W. Pease; second term, Ralph E. Conner, G. Fred Littlefield, Carl Taylor, Charles O. Judkins, Nellie E. Connor, Mamie A. Connor, George L. Chase, Nellie W. Pease; third term, Ralph E. Conner, G. Fred Littlefield, Willie Clough, James Hill, Dana R. Paul, Charles O. Judkins, Carl Taylor, Rufus W. Pease, Nellie E. Connor, Mamie A. Connor, John W. Coe, Maud L. Pillsbury. Prizes offered by the teacher for improvement in penmanship, were awarded, June 29, 1883 to Ralph E. Conner and Mamie A. Connor. At the close of the year, February 22, 1884, prizes were presented to Dana B. Paul for excellence in book-keeping; to Nellie J. Marden and Martin B. Quinn for improvement in penmanship, and to Ralph E. Conner and G. Fred Littlefield for being present every day of the school year. Other scholars showed great proficiency in penmanship and accounts.

A live teacher insures a wide-awake and progressive school. The enthusiastic and scholarly efficiency of the instruction—in many instances independent of and superior to the text-book—gave an extent, variety and completeness of recitation which was truly astonishing. The school appeared nobly in its business habits and plain manners, full of sense and shrewdness. The scholars were ambitious to perform any reasonable task with ready cheerfulness. There was about the usual amount of blundering, but accompanied

with much prompt and accurate recitation. Independent and thorough mastery of the matter in hand were gratifying characteristics of teacher and pupils. The rhetorical exercises connected with the closing examinations were very highly appreciated by the numerous visitors. Mr. Libbey remarks "during the three terms that we have had charge of the school, the scholars have been obedient, and have ever manifested great interest in their studies, desiring to lay a foundation for future usefulness in the world. We can only ask those who have witnessed the school room work, to judge how far we have been successful in promoting the advancement of the pupils in their studies."

### INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

Teacher, **ABBIE M. CUSHING.**

Wages per month, \$35.00. Number of pupils first term, 27; average 26; second term, 43; average, 42; third term, 42; average 40. Percentage of daily attendance, first term, 92; second term, 93\*; third term, 90. Visits by Superintendent, 7; by Prudential Committee, 2; by parents and friends including closing examinations, first term, 14; second term, 14; third term, 58. Pupils present every half day without being tardy, first term, Kate O'Brien, Minnie A. Barnes, Hannah Kelley, Levi A. Pollard; second term, Annie Judkins, Cora Hayden, Carrie P. Beal, Fannie C. Marden, Hattie Tetherly; third term, Annie Judkins, Willie C. Hanson, Frank Hayden, Wilbur Littlefield.

One rarely meets a more quiet, orderly and well-disposed company than was gathered in this schoolroom. Under a tuition gentle, careful and vigilant, everything has moved forward smoothly and happily. The teacher, herself apt to teach, mildly persuasive in demeanor, never falling into ex-

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\*NOTE.—This per cent. for the second term is a little too high, as sixteen pupils who were promoted from the primary school at the middle of the term have been counted in both schools.



tremes but ever judicious in all her demands, has secured willing pupils who know no other wish than implicit obedience to every request. They have learned to enjoy the tuition and drill that are taking them on the way of study and scholarship. Whenever visited, the school appeared respectful, orderly, studious and happy. From first to last it gave abundant reason for satisfaction. There was no dash or display, but a steady effort to accomplish, day by day, the true mission of a good school. Its appearance admits of no remarks but those of commendation. The devotion of Miss Cushing to the good of her pupils was unwearied. She gave herself wholly and faithfully to her school. Head, heart and hand were in the work. Such pains-taking devotion and faithfulness deserve a thankful acknowledgment. A high meed of praise is gladly awarded by all in the district. The interest seemed to culminate with the closing examination when the press of visitors compelled an adjournment to the larger room of the grammar school. At the close of the exercises, Hattie G. Simpson stepped forward, and in behalf of her schoolmates, presented the teacher a fitting token of their affection and esteem.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Teachers, HARRIET E. SANBORN, IDA ALICE VARNEY.

Wages per month first term, \$36.00; second and third terms \$35.00. Number of pupils for the year 75; first term 68, average 62; second term 64, average 62; third term 38, average 32. Percentage of daily attendance, first term 86; second term 87; third term 75. Visits by Superintendent, 10; by Prudential Committee, 1; by parents and friends including the closing examinations, first term 23; second term 44; third term 33. Pupils present every half-day without being tardy, first term, Annie C. Foley, Nellie Foley, Annie C. Jones, Maggie Kelley, Mary Kelley, Sarah J. Law, Ines M. Pease, Frank Jones; second term, Katie Swett, Della Marden, Herman Neal, Charlie Neal, Mary Kelley; third term, Ines M. Pease, Herman Neal, Charlie Neal.

Miss Sanborn took this school through its first term with her complete success of former years. The highest commendation we can bestow upon this teacher is to say that she has been as faithful, efficient and successful as ever. Her brother, the Rev. J. W. Sanborn, gave the school an instructive lesson with the microscope on the afternoon of June 28, 1883. The retirement of Miss Sanborn on account of ill-health, was felt by all to be a great misfortune. We yielded to the necessity with a regret which was universal. With the opening of the second term, Miss Varney entered the school as substitute for Miss Sanborn. It is no easy task to take charge of sixty or seventy primary scholars and give them all the right training. Parents do not always succeed with only three or four children. It is no marvel that perfection does not always rule in the school-room. This was Miss Varney's first attempt at teaching. It was a hard place to put one with no practical experience in the work. After getting her charge fairly in hand, she proved herself adequate to the work, and competent to meet all the demands of the position. There was a gradual increase in efficiency from the first. She speedily demonstrated that youth and inexperience are neither crimes nor failures. Her success established the fact the product of our home soil may equal if not exceed foreign importations. We are all acquainted with Miss Varney's personal accomplishments and literary attainments. She has merited much as one of our scholars, and we gladly welcome her as an acquisition to our *corps* of teachers.

## DISTRICT NO. 2.

Prudential Committee, A. W. RICHARDS.

Money appropriated to the district \$220.00. Length of school 28 weeks—one term of 11, and a second term of 17 weeks. Whole number of scholars 28—boys 16, girls 12. Pupils under six years of age 1; over sixteen 1; between six and sixteen 26. Average daily attendance 21. Per-

centage of daily attendance 93. Children in the district not attending any school, 2.

Teacher, A. W. RICHARDS.

Wages per month \$35.00. Number of scholars first term 24, average 20; second term 24, average 23. Percentage of daily attendance, first term 98; second term 97. Visits by Superintendent, 6; by parents and friends including the closing examinations, first term 20; second term 36. Pupils present every half day without being tardy, first term Charles H. Reynolds, Edward H. Richards, Ernest E. Richards, Belle A. Hanson, Nellie M. Hanson, Sarah R. Richards, Lizzie H. Richards, Georgia A. Davis; second term Charles H. Reynolds, Edward H. Richards, Belle A. Hanson, Nellie M. Hanson, Sadie R. Richards, Lizzie H. Richards, Alice B. Kuse, Fred. S. Foss.

Again the district has enjoyed the faithful labors of Mr. Richards. Certainly he, if any one, must be interested in the welfare of the school, having five children among its pupils. It is sufficient to say that he lost nothing of the good reputation he has achieved by long and varied experience in teaching. No one is more at home in the school-room. He never labored with more zeal, tact and ability, or with more complete success. Abating no jot of industry or enthusiasm, he has moved the whole school onward in the road to a high degree of proficiency. It now stands above the average of past terms in number of pupils, efficiency of instruction and attainment in scholarship. The school is one of mixed grade and none the worse for that. Here are pupils ranging in their studies from the spelling-book to the intricacies of book-keeping and algebra. Every scholar, so far as we can discover, takes a genuine interest in the pursuits of the school-room. We have not found individual pupils more interesting and scholarly than in this district. We cannot speak too highly of the teacher's familiarity with the branches taught, and the thoroughness of his instruction, or of the order of the school and interest



of the scholars in their studies. The closing examination exhibited very much that was praiseworthy. Committee, parents and friends highly gratified.

### SCHOOL HINTS.

We are not infallible. We cannot claim to have pointed out all the merits of the several schools, nor to have done ample justice to each teacher and scholar. We have taken it for granted that each school deserves much more credit than we have room to mention. We think it better to speak by way of commendation, and so to intimate what is censurable, rather than to fall into the habit of open blame which seldom helps reform, whether of individuals or of communities. We have been cautious in blame, feeling that approval is more pleasant than even implied rebuke, and vastly more effective for good. It is rarely that a school year ends with so little to find fault with. No case of flagrant rebellion or of severe discipline has arisen. In all probability our schools never ranked higher in deportment and scholarship than at present. The hearty co-operation of Prudential Committees, the helpful sympathy of parents, the faithfulness, energy and tact of teachers, and the enthusiastic diligence of pupils, deserve the appreciative thanks of the whole community; but they cannot be adequately presented in any report.

The school stands nearest the family of all our institutions; it is, indeed, an extension and image of it. As is the family, such is the school; such the neighborhood, the society, the man. They say the household pieties are fading out from our hearth-sides, and disappearing. If so it will not be long before the infidelity will be repeated in our schools, our institutions, our churches, our men. A good thought in regard to this whole theme of education lies in the one word co-operation. Joint instrumentality is essential to highest success. Our children must be educated together. Private tuition is but partial instruction. If we cannot unite in church polity or on political questions, still let nothing

separate us in school matters. If the tendencies are to idleness, vagrancy, vulgarity and profanity, let them be unitedly resisted. Let all unite together in exterminating the vices of the street and in training our sons and daughters for virtue, usefulness and happiness. Our sacred shrines of knowledge had better be demolished rather than become the sanctuary of hypocrisy and vice. Henceforth teaching must rank among the learned professions. So unequalled in power and honor is the instructor's vocation that angels from all their glory might stoop to share in the work. It is to mould the might of mind, than which when it speaks out, God's thunder is not more audible.

General virtue and intelligence are essential to the welfare of a free state. Because we venerate the might of the majority, therefore, our endeavor to make the majority ever right. Presidents and Governors must be educated. But our rulers are the people. So, then, must the masses be educated. An educated people will be loyal to constitutional government; an illiterate majority will, in the long run, ruin any Republic. Free schools hold an important place in the American idea. From the first, New England has required a certain amount of instruction, supported by taxation. All citizens are expected to reach a given standard of knowledge. The great majority of our people are to be educated in our common schools. Only about one pupil in a hundred graduates at our High schools, and scarcely one in a thousand at our colleges and higher seminaries. These common schools are among the chief glories of American civilization.

There is a wide-spread feeling that our schools are not doing all they should do for the people. Doubtless, there is some ground for the dissatisfaction. There has been marvellous progress in science and the mechanic arts during the last fifty years. Schools which sufficed for the simpler days of the stage-coach and hand-loom, cannot deal with the complicated problems of an age of steam and electricity. Teachers like Valentine Smith, Warren Gilman and the Misses

Adams, Ewer and Folsom, excellent as they were in their day, would make a ludicrous appearance in our modern school rooms. The average teacher of to-day is plainly the superior of the average teacher of any previous period of our history. But material enterprise has outrun our educational advancement. Neither is it surprising that our schools do not instantly adapt themselves to the changing demands of the times. The spirit of business enterprise now rules the hour. Material invention, thrifty handicraft, speculating traffic, predominate nowadays. Not even the most sagacity can predict what the future may require. Changes for the better are sure to come: we should be getting ready for them. The genius of the coming civilization will not be predominantly material, but rational, intellectual, spiritual. It will demand a wider scholarship and higher proficiency in the science of education. So shall the seething elements in society to-day, be made harmless for evil and stronger for good—vastly more worthy of that varied, richer, broader and nobler civilization of the future into which the accumulations of the present are pouring their treasures.

Bear we also away through the years before us, the thought that true education is to fit for the school of eternity—for the manhood of the soul when the tuition of time is ended. May scholars, teachers, parents, committees, be happy learners there.

Courteously presented,

J. H. FITTS.

South Newmarket, Feb. 29, 1884.











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